

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the present title with the following amended title:

NUCLEIC ACID ENCODING PIGMENT PROTEIN FROM CORAL TISSUE

Please replace the first line of the application, as amended in the Preliminary Amendment filed August 1, 2001, with the following amended line:

This application is a 371 of PCT/AU00/00056 filed February 2, 2000, which claims priority to Australian application PP8463, filed February 2, 1999.

Please replace the fourth paragraph of page 1 with the following amended paragraph:

In a first aspect, the invention provides an isolated polynucleotide molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a pigment protein from coral tissue (PPCT) capable of emitting fluorescence upon irradiation by incident light, wherein maximal absorbance of said incident light is in the range of 320-600 nm (preferably, 550-580 nm), and maximal fluorescence emission is in the range of ~~300~~350-700 nm (preferably, 400-650 nm).

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 4 and 5 with the following amended paragraph:

Host cells are transfected or, more preferably, transformed, with expression or cloning vectors ~~of~~ the invention and cultured in conventional nutrient media modified as appropriate for inducing promoters, selecting transformants, or amplifying the genes encoding the desired sequences. Transformation means introducing the DNA into an organism so that the DNA is replicable, either as an extrachromosomal element or by chromosomal integration. Depending on the host cell used, transformation is carried out using standard techniques appropriate to such cells.

On page 22, please replace the second paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

Amplified sequences were gel purified and inserted into the bacterial pBAD TOPO expression vector using the pBAD TOPO TA cloning kit (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, USA), prior to transformation into ONE SHOT~~One Shot~~ Competent Cells (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, USA). Reading frame and occurrence of stop codon at position AA221 in longer sequences (231 amino acids and 235 amino acids) were checked by ABI nucleotide sequencing from pBAD forward and reverse priming sites in the pBAD TOPO expression vector.

Please replace Figures 2, 7, and 8 with the replacement Drawings attached hereto.